

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 are canceled.

Claims 10-18 are new.

The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and to clarify claim language.

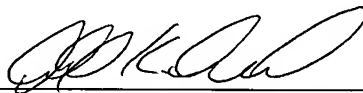
The amendments to the claims are supported by the claims, as originally filed, and throughout the specification.

Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 10-18 will be active.

No new matter is believed to have been added. An action on the merits and allowance of the claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon



---

Donald K. Drummond, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 52,834

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)  
DKD:smi